

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO :AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1009

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR , XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS COMMENT PLUGS GENEVA

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2911 B. CAIRO 9881

1. SUMMARY. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE UNSC RENEWAL OF UNDOF
AND THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER

ALLON IN WASHINGTON, PRAVDA'S COMMENTARY BY DEMCHENKO
(DECEMBER 7) AND WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY ORESTOV

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(DECEMBER 8) SHARPLY CRITICIZE ISRAEL AND IMPLICITLY THE

U.S. FOR PROLONGING THE ME CRISIS BY DELAYING THE REOPENING OF THE MEPC. DEMCHENKO, GOING SOMEWHAT FURTHER THAN USUAL, IMPLIES THAT THE U.S. IS AMONG THOSE WHO ARE SABOTAGING THE CONFERENCE AND "CONDUCTING THEMSELVES LIKE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE." END SUMMARY.

2. DEMCHENKO CHARGES THAT ISRAEL'S RULING CIRCLES ARE CONTINUING TO EVADE ANY CONSTRUCTION SOLUTION IN THE ME. MOREOVER, WITH THE "SUPPORT OF FOREIGN PATRONS" (USUAL SHORTHAND FOR THE U.S.), TEL AVIV IS ENGAGED IN CONTINUOUS MANEUVERING TO PROLONG THE ME CONFLICT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS. IMPLICITLY SUGGESTING THAT THIS SITUATION HAS A TIME LIMIT BY POINTING UP SYRIAN ASSERTIONS THAT THE UNDOF RENEWAL IS A TEMPORARY DECISION. DEMCHENKO CALLS FOR "ENERGETIC POLITICAL MEASURES" TO ESCAPE THE DEAD END WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE ME. AS EXPECTED DEMCHNEKO SAYS THE USSR BELIEVES THAT THE "MOST APPROPRIATE PLACE" TO DISCUSS THE ME AND TO WORK OUT A QUICK AND JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT MUST BECOME THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AND AFTER ASSERTING THAT THE ADVISIBILITY OF REOPENING THE MEPC'S WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WAS FIXED IN THE U.S.-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE AT VLADIVOSTOK, HE CONCLUDES THAT THOSE WHO ARE "SABOTAGING" THE CONFERENCE ARE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES LIKE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AND A STABLE PEACE IN THE ME.

3. IN SIMILAR VEIN THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW CHARGES ISRAEL WITH USING ONE PRETEXT AFTER ANOTHER - ORESTOV REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO TALK TO THE POL - TO HINDER THE REOPENING OF THE MEPC. PICKING UP KATZIR'S REMARKS ABOUT ISRAEL'S POTENTIAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND RABIN'S ASSERTION THAT ISRAEL IS STRONGER NOW THAN IN 1973, ORESTOV ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE FAILURE OF ISRAEL'S "AGGRESSIVE POLICY" HAS LED TEL AVIV TO "COARSE BLACKMAIL." HE SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT SABRE-RATTLING WILL NOT FOSTER A NORMALIZATION OF THE ME SITUATION AND CONCLUDES THAT "OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS" NOW EXIST TO RENEW THE MEPC WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE A JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE ME IN ACCORDANCE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE COMMENT CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE LINE TAKEN BY THE SYRIAN PRESS (REFTEL A) WITH THE APPARENT DIFFERENCE THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS DIRECT IN CRITICISM OF THE U.S. HOWEVER, FROM MOSCOW POINT OF VIEW, IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO PUSH GENEVA IS AIMED NOT

ONLY AT ISRAEL AND THE U.S., -- THE OBVIOUS TARGETS --
BUT ALSO AT SADAT, WHOSE CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR A STEP-
BY-STEP APPROACH IN THE ME, WHILE UNDER GROWING
PRESSURE (REFTEL B), IS STILL A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM
FOR MOSCOW IN ITS EFFORTS TO SOLIDIFY ARAB SUPPORT
FOR THE MEPC FRAMEWORK.
STOESSEL

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